

The good Mr. Stubbs attempted no further excuse; and the next day, a room being appropriated to the purpose of a study, Mr. Stubbs attended, and every following day, to give them instructions. Master Simpson and Amintor sat at one desk, and Miss Simpson and Florella at another. This good clergyman not only instructed them in the principles of religion, reading, writing, and accounts, but proceeded to teach them the knowledge of the heavens and the earth. He made them well acquainted with the history of their own country, and afterwards with that of all nations. Natural history was a great favourite with these little pupils, and such progress did they make in their studies as excited the admiration and applause of every one.

In the mean time, the lease of a very desirable farm expired, and the late occupier, having acquired a fortune on it, thought proper to retire from all business.

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It had on it a very pretty house, such as you see in the picture at the head of this chapter. 'Squire Simpson, to whom the house and farm belonged, ordered a new lease to be made out in the name of Amintor's father, whom he put in possession of the whole, and supplied him with money, till things came about.

Thus were our two pretty moralists the cause of the happiness of their aged parents, who, by care and industry, soon paid the 'Squire the money he had lent them. Amintor occasionally assisted his father in the management of his farm, and in some measure acted the part of a little steward; while Florella was no less serviceable in the 'Squire's house, in the capacity of a little housekeeper.

About the time that Amintor reached the twenty-first year of his age, his father died, and his mother in a few months after him, when Amintor became possessed of one of the most valuable farms in the

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